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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Articles I've read in newspapers (and on websites) suggest that the Department of Justice is letting Microsoft off easy because the prosecution of Microsoft it is hurting our economy. Is that what we, as Americans, are supposed to teach our children? That crime is "ok" as long as it (temporarily) helps our economy?

Microsoft has been proven guilty of serious crimes that affect all consumers, and all businesses, and in fact, may affect our entire future. And we're going to let them off easy just because it is temporarily inconvenient to punish them properly? Absurd! The fact that this case was tried as a civil case instead of being tried as a criminal case HAS ALREADY let them off easy, no matter what civil penalties may be imposed. Several Microsoft executives SHOULD, actually, be facing JAIL TIME. But now, not only are we not punishing them under criminal law, but we're even going to let them off easy on the civil penalties? THIS SETTLEMENT is a crime against all Americans, and all computer users of the world!

In the meantime, A. Alfred Taubman of Detroit faces a strong possibility of 3 years in prison, and \$300,000.00 in fines for MUCH lesser crimes (charged with violating the Sherman Antitrust Act by fixing prices at Christie's and Sotheby's auction houses) because prosecution of his crime doesn't negatively affect the economy. And there are MANY examples of FOREIGN companies, listed on the DOJ website, who have received far greater punishment for far lesser crimes.

This settlement is ridiculous! Microsoft was PROVEN GUILTY BEYOND ANY REASONABLE DOUBT. Most of the charges were upheld by the Appeal's Court. The evidence is a matter of PUBLIC RECORD. Bill Gates, and other Microsoft executives SHOULD BE IN PRISON. Instead, they stand to walk away with a slap on the hand!

PLEASE GIVE UP on trying to convince the "hold-out" States to join this settlement! This proposed settlement DOES NOT adequately address the crimes. And the "hold-out" States are THE PEOPLE'S only remaining hope of JUSTICE in this case. The (proposed) settlement MIGHT HAVE BEEEN acceptable IF Microsoft had been willing to settle BEFORE the judge issued his findings of fact. But THEY DIDN'T. Microsoft arrogantly CHOSE to take it's chances in court and THEY WERE PROVEN GUILTY.

If this (proposed) settlement becomes final, the Justice Department is basically allowing Bill Gates and Microsoft to walk away LAUGHING at our system of justice, while STEPPING ON the LITTLE GUYS who play fair! And WE, THE PEOPLE, will PAY for it all!